

British Museum (Natural History)



EXOTIC ORTHOPTERA

SERIES No. 3

(GRASSHOPPERS)

5 *Cards in Colour*

Set E 38

One Shilling



EXOTIC ORTHOPTERA

Tanusia brullei

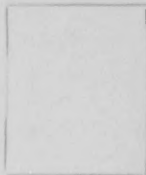
Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

POST CARD

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CORRESPONDENCE

(FOR ADDRESS ONLY)





a



b

EXOTIC ORTHOPTERA

(a) *Eugaster guyoni* (b) *Eugaster spinulosus*

Natural size

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EXOTIC ORTHOPTERA

Zulpha perlaria

Natural size

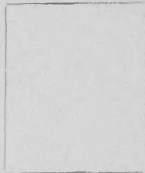
BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

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EXOTIC ORTHOPTERA

Tanusia picta

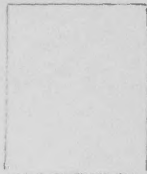
Natural size

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EXOTIC ORTHOPTERA

Vellea cruenta

Natural size

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EXOTIC ORTHOPTERA.

SERIES No. 3.

(Grasshoppers.)

The order Orthoptera comprises cockroaches (Blattidae), praying-insects (Mantidae), stick-insects (Phasmidae), locusts and other short-horned grasshoppers (Acrididae), long-horned grasshoppers (Tettigonidae) and crickets (Gryllidae). Variation in general appearance, in type of coloration, and in habits, is very great among the several families of Orthoptera, but they all have in common powerful biting jaws, two pairs of wings (sometimes undeveloped) in the adult stage, and an incomplete metamorphosis, *i.e.*, the young larvæ when they emerge from the eggs are more or less like the adults, but without wings. The wings appear at a later stage and grow gradually ; and the transformation into the adult form takes place without a pupal stage. Some families are entirely flesh-eaters, such as mantids, which prey on other

insects ; others (Acrididae and Phasmidae) are invariably plant-eaters, and include many serious pests to agriculture, such as the migratory locusts ; others again prefer a mixed diet.

The cards in this series represent members of one family, Tettigonidae, or long-horned grasshoppers, so called because of the length of their antennae, which being exceedingly breakable are seldom perfect in the dried specimens. The family contains many insects of large size, distributed mainly in the tropics. Most of them live on trees or shrubs, and accordingly the majority are green in colour ; thus, harmonizing with their surroundings, they are difficult to detect. In some cases, the front wings (elytra) even assume the shape of leaves with their characteristic venation, so that the insect at rest is indistinguishable from a leaf.

An example of this kind is provided by *Tanusia brullei* (E 206), a native of Brazil, while another species of the same genus, *Tanusia picta* (E 207), also found in Brazil, presents a remarkable reproduction of a dead

leaf. The hind wings in both these insects bear striking eye-spots, which are not, however, visible when the insect folds its hind wings beneath the elytra.

Zulpha perlaria (E 208) is a native of Sumatra. Its hind wings are of a very unusual blackish-violet colour, spotted with white, while all parts of the body and elytra, visible when the insect is resting, are reddish-brown, mottled with white and resembling the bark of a tree covered with lichens.

Vellea cruenta (E 209), a long-horned grasshopper of South America, is of the usual green coloration when resting, but the hind wings are brilliant red. This type of coloration is very unusual in the family.

Both species of the genus *Eugaster* (E 210)—(a) *E. guyoni*; (b) *E. spinulosus*—occur in Algeria. The genus belongs to a group of long-horned grasshoppers, in which the wings are not developed but transformed into small sound-producing organs concealed under the big dorsal shield (pronotum) provided with stout spines. The black coloration, with

bright red or orange spots, is very striking and makes these insects extremely conspicuous, particularly in the stony deserts which they inhabit. Being thus not protected by their coloration, these grasshoppers possess another means of defence against enemies ; they can, when disturbed, squirt blood from special pores at the base of their legs, the range of the jets being as much as twenty inches.

Set E 38.

August, 1925.